IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY BEFORE THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICES

In regard to international application:

Serial No. PCT/BR2003/000108

Applicant: Sergio Martins Costa

Filing Date: August 1, 2003

Title: DESALINATION MACHINE

Attorney Docket No. 10008.010

To: Mail Stop PCT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

In connection with entry into the National Phase in the United States of the above referenced application, please amend the application as follows:

In The Claims:

Amend claims 1 - 4 as follows:

1. (currently amended) ~~"Desalinization Machine",~~ A desalinization machine comprising [[of]] a series of vertical tube bundles, each bundle compounding an evaporator or stage, supported and sealed by an upper and a bottom tube sheet, in a multi effect process, ~~characterised by~~ characterized by having the assembling of the stages in a concentric disposition ~~(Fig 1, 10 and 16)~~, where the first stage is a shell and tube exchanger in a ring format, here named Ring Shell and Tube Evaporator ~~(Figs 3 and 11)~~ having a free space at the ~~centre~~ center of the bundle, where is inserted the next stage or intermediate stage that is a bundle of tubes in a ring format, here named Ring Bundle Evaporator, having also a free space in the center ~~centre (Fig.12)~~, where is inserted the next stage that could be another intermediate stage or the last stage that is a bundle of vertical tubes here named Cylindrical Bundle Evaporator ~~(Fig. 5)~~.

2. (currently amended) ~~"Desalinization machine"~~ The desalinization machine according to claim 1, where the Ring Shell and Tube Evaporator ~~(Fig 2 and 3) are~~ is ~~characterized by~~ characterized by having the following features:

a) an internal wall [[3]];
b) a ~~vapour~~ vapor chamber above the upper tube sheet defined by an extension of said internal wall [[3]] and a circumferential external wall ~~51 (Fig 3)~~ welded at the edge of the upper tube sheet, with a flange on the top to support the second stage;
c) a number of circular supports ~~(42) (Fig. 11)~~ equal to the number of stages less 2.

3. (currently amended) ~~"Desalinization machine"~~ The desalinization machine according to claim 1, where the Ring Bundle Evaporator is ~~characterized by~~ characterized by having the following features:

a) an internal wall ~~40 (Fig. 11)~~;
b) a ~~vapour~~ vapor chamber above the upper tube sheet defined by an extension of said internal wall [[40]] and a circumferential external wall ~~52 (Fig. 13)~~ welded at the edge of the upper tube sheet, with a flange on the top to support the succeeding stage;
c) an external wall ~~47 (Fig. 5)~~, here named armour that encloses the ~~vapour~~ vapor

inside the tube bundle;

d) the upper tube sheet being 30% larger in diameter than the bottom tube sheet.

4. (currently amended) ~~"Desalinization machine"~~ The desalinization machine according to claim 1, where the Cylindrical Bundle Evaporator is ~~characterized by~~ characterized by having the following features:

a) an external wall ~~36 (Fig.13)~~ here named armour that encloses the ~~vapour~~ vapor inside the tube bundle;

b) a tray ~~19 (Fig 13)~~ to collect salt water from the preceding stage to ~~directs~~ direct this water to the central tube [[20]];

c) the upper tube sheet being 30% larger in diameter than the bottom tube sheet.